

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application Claims 6-19, of which Claims 6, 10, and 14 are independent. Claims 1-5 which had been subjected to a restriction requirement are now cancelled. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

There is accompanying this Amendment an Information Disclosure Statement citing U.S. Patent No. 4,755,855. Consideration of that reference and allowance of the claims in view thereof is respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, on grounds that it includes terms which are not clear, concise and exact. The drawings have been objected to on what are understood to be similar grounds. In view of those rejections and objections, Applicant has made a number of amendments to the specification to be certain that the reference numerals used throughout the specification and drawings are internally consistent and to this extent have defined the discharge first flapper as reference numeral 63, discharge second flapper as reference numeral 64, duplex first flapper as reference numeral 21, and duplex second flapper as reference numeral 22. In so doing, no new matter has been added.

Given the above amendments to the specification, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and the objections to the drawings, have been addressed and now overcome.

This application was subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to which Claims 1-5 were withdrawn from consideration. Consequently, Applicant has now cancelled Claims 1-5.

Claims 6-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takami, et al. in view of Ito, et al., Muramatsu, Ando, et al. and Sakata, et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Each of independent Claims 6, 10, and 14 is directed to an image forming apparatus with a sheet mounting unit for mounting sheets and with image forming means for forming an image on a sheet supplied from the sheet mounting unit, the image forming means being adjustable in a direction transverse to a direction of conveying the sheet. In addition, each of Claims 6, 10, and 14 recites sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet in the direction transverse to the conveying direction of the sheet in combination with image formation control means which controls a position of formation of an image in accordance with the sheet position information.

Applicant has reviewed the above applied art of record and respectfully submits that none of that art teaches or suggest the above features of the invention as set forth in each of the independent claims of the above application. More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that none of the applied art teaches an image forming means which is adjustable in a direction transverse to a direction of conveying the sheet and calls for an image formation control means which controls a position of formation of an image in accordance with the sheet position information. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the independent claims of the above application are patentable over the applied art of record.

In the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement, Applicant cites U.S. Patent No. 4,755,855. There is disclosure in this patent at column 8, line 47 through column 9, line 4, of a technique for detecting the magnitude of diversion of a sheet by a sensor and correcting an image forming position on the sheet based on the detection. However, this reference is not understood to teach or suggest that a position of formation of the image formed by the image forming means is adjustable in a direction transverse to a direction of conveying the sheet, together with stop means for temporarily stopping a sheet and sheet position detection means for detecting a position of the sheet temporarily stopped by stop means.

The remaining claims not heretofore discussed in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application are respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Stahl', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

Lawrence A. Stahl

Registration No. 30,110

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200
LAS:eyw

DC-MAIN 133741 v1